

FLD 896

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COUNTRY East Germany

SECRET INFORMATION

REPORT

TOPIC Military Information from Dessau

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EVALUATION [REDACTED] PLACE OBTAINED [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT [REDACTED] 25X1

DATE OBTAINED [REDACTED] DATE PREPARED 31 July 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

- 25X1 1. Prior to 10 July 1953, the Pionier Kaserne in Rosslau was occupied by 500 to 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery and tank insignia. Between 17 and 20 June, patrol service was seen on the road from Meinsdorf to Luko. The patrols were withdrawn on 20 June. On 26 June, six T-34/85 tanks were observed in the forest across the Pionier Kaserne. At about 10 a.m. on 30 June, four St-100 left the installation toward Luko. During the period of observation, tanks with infantry were engaged in offensive combat practice at the former Pioniersprengplatz (engineer training grounds). On 3 July, about 300 troops carrying telephone equipment, portable radio sets, light mortars, and small arms entered the installation. Trucks [REDACTED] towing a 7.62-mm artillery piece each also drove into the installation. On 9 July, about 200 troops with light machine guns and carbines entered the Pionier Kaserne. Vehicles observed at the installation included:

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- 25X1 2. On 10 July, Camp Gross Kuehnau was occupied by a rear detail only. The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Sedan [REDACTED] entered the installation. [REDACTED] on 17 and 18 June, about 200 tanks marched through Kuehnau. An undetermined number of these tanks allegedly had gone toward Leipzig. [REDACTED]

- 25X1 3. On 30 June, about 300 engineer soldiers did infantry training in the forest on the road to Coswig. On 3 July, 800 to 1,000 troops were engaged in rifle firing practice with live ammunition at the Luko artillery range. Vehicles observed at the engineer troop cantonment south of Schlangengrube [REDACTED]

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- 25X1 On 9 July, bridge constructions were made at four different places on the Elbe River. Trucks [redacted] were observed. Shipping on the river was fairly heavy. 3
4. The situation in Rosslau was normal. Soviet units and KVP units were withdrawn. Troops observed during the period of riots included: 12 to 14 T-34/85 tanks, several armored scout cars, 4 to 6 half-track vehicles with a four-barreled AA gun each, and an undetermined number of trucks with soldiers from the Pionier Kaserne. Four machine guns on a 2-wheel carriage each were emplaced on either side of the bridge across the Elbe River near Rosslau. There were no reinforcements arriving from other places during the riots. 1 [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted] 250 to 300 engineer troops from the camp were transported on trucks to Magdeburg where they had been employed during the riots. In late June, the troops returned to Camp Brambach. 4 On 27 June, engineer details practiced mine detecting at the Elbe River bridge on either side of the approach. The mine detector was a 1.5-meter long wooden shaft with an iron head 20 to 30 centimeters long. At 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. on 3 July, a troop train coming from the direction of Dessau passed Rosslau toward Zerbst. Each train had 10 to 12 boxcars with Soviet troops and KVP personnel wearing olive drab - colored uniforms, and an undetermined number of flatcars with 20 T-34 tanks and 12 to 15 trucks. [redacted] At 8 p.m. on 11 July, 4 officers and 30 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia and equipped with small arms marched from the Rosslau railroad station toward the town. At 9 p.m. on 11 July, a troop train of 1 boxcar with soldiers and an undetermined number of flatcars with 12 motor boats went from Dessau to Rosslau. 6 Prior to 11 July, the Pionier Kaserne was occupied by 600 to 800 troops. On 26 June, a T-34/85 tank was parked at the entrance gate. Trucks [redacted]
- 25X1 [redacted] were observed at the installation. 1
5. Prior to 11 July, the engineer training grounds on the Elbe River southeast of Rosslau was occupied by about 2,500 troops. Engineer soldiers were camping in tents east of Wolfsgrube. [redacted] they belonged to the units practicing at the engineer training grounds southeast of Rosslau. Details could not be obtained as security measures were very strict. Practicing at the engineer training grounds included construction of ferries and ferrying operations. Heavy three-section bridge building equipment consisting of closed pontoons was observed. Nine pontoons were used for a two-way ferry which carried four T-34/85 tanks. Mostly, ferrying of four trucks on each ferry was practiced. 3
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6. Prior to 11 July, the engineer training grounds at Brambach was occupied by 800 to 1,000 troops. Much training activity was observed. Ferries were constructed from the three-section bridge building equipment consisting of open pontoons, using, however, three middle-sections and three end-sections only. Ferrying operations with a truck on each ferry were observed. 7
7. Prior to 11 July, the engineer training grounds south of the Flachsfabrik was occupied by about 500 troops. Engineer equipment observed on the river bank included 50 to 60 three-section pontoons. No construction of ferries was seen. Individual soldiers worked on landing ramps. There was not much activity. 7
8. Prior to 11 July, the engineer training grounds south of Steutz was occupied by about 1,000 troops. There was much training activity. Practicing included: construction of ferries with heavy three-section bridge building equipment consisting of open pontoons; and ferrying operations. Three middle-section pontoons and three-end section pontoons were used for each ferry. About 60 pontoons and several piles of beams and wooden boards were seen on the river bank. A brick house was constructed at the cantonment.
- 25X1 [redacted] following the riots in East Germany in June, all military installations were more heavily guarded. 7

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9. On 5 July, a train of 8 cars with about 20 officers and 180 EM and 25 cars with iron bridge construction material, pontoons, amphibious cars [redacted]

25X1 [redacted] and an undetermined number of trucks [redacted] 25X1
 25X1 [redacted] was unloaded at the Aken railroad station. The troops marched toward Brambach. 6

25X1 1. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] only 25X1
 units stationed in the Dessau training area were employed during the riots in June 1953. There was no change in the occupation of the Pionier Kaserne in Dessau with a large rear detail and the unidentified tank training battalion of the 7th Gds Tank Div. [redacted] 25X1

25X1 2. [redacted] Comment. The status of occupation remains the same as on 4 July 1953. [redacted]
 25X1 [redacted]

25X1 3. [redacted] Comment. These two reports refer to the training area southeast of Rossau where the vehicle numbers observed still confirm the 36th Pon Bdg Regt of the GFG. 25X1

25X1 4. [redacted]

25X1 5. [redacted] Comment. These troop trains have not been confirmed.

25X1 6. [redacted] Comment. Several other reports indicated that, between 5 and 11 July 1953, engineer units of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps rotated between Dessau-Aken and the Kindel and Lossa troop training grounds.

25X1 7. [redacted] Comment. Engineer units of the Eighth Gds Army and the unidentified engineer regiment of the GFG from Bernburg are still believed to be stationed at these engineer training grounds in the Dessau-Aken area. [redacted] 25X1

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